

What is claimed is:

1. An information processing apparatus for displaying a plurality of linked items of content in a virtual space in accordance with field-of-view data, said information processing apparatus comprising:

a first capturing unit for capturing link description data;

a second capturing unit for capturing content data associated with the description of an item of content contained in said captured link description data;

an image generating unit for generating an image of said item of content to be disposed in said virtual space, in accordance with said captured content data; and

a determining unit for determining further data to be captured next in accordance with a condition contained in said captured link description data.

2. The information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said captured link description data contains a disposition and an identification of further link description data, and a condition for capturing said further link description data.

3. The information processing apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said further link description data contains a disposition and an identification of an item of content.

4. The information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said captured link description data contains a disposition of an item of content and a condition for capturing said item of content.

5. The information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said captured link description data contains a disposition of an item of content and contains as said condition a geometric metric range between said item of

content and the current viewpoint for capturing said item of content.

5 6. The information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said captured link description data contains dispositions of a plurality of items of content and contains as said condition a priority order of capturing said plurality of sets of content data.

10 7. The information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said captured link description data contains as said condition a reference position for preferentially capturing a closer item of content.

15 8. The information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said captured link description data contains the descriptions of links to a plurality of items of content with different sizes.

20 9. The information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said second capturing unit determines a necessary resolution in accordance with the geometric relationship between the current viewpoint and the item of content and captures said content data at said resolution.

25 10. The information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said determining unit determines priorities for capturing a plurality of sets of content data in accordance with said condition.

30 11. The information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein, when the geometric relationship between the current viewpoint and said item of content satisfies said condition, said image generating unit generates an image of
35 said item of content.

12. The information processing apparatus according to

claim 1, wherein, when a group of items of content has a priority order, said image generating unit generates an image of a last captured item of content among said plurality of items of content.

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13. The information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said first and second capturing units capture data over a network.

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14. A program product stored on a storage medium for use in an information processing apparatus and for displaying a plurality of linked items of content in a virtual space in accordance with field-of-view data, said program product being operable to effect the steps of:

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capturing link description data;

capturing content data associated with the description of an item of content contained in said captured link description data;

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generating an image of said item of content to be disposed in said virtual space, in accordance with said captured content data; and

determining further data to be captured next in accordance with a condition contained in said captured link description data.

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15. The program product according to claim 14, wherein said captured link description data contains a disposition and an identification of further link description data, and a condition for capturing said further link description data.

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16. The program product according to claim 14, wherein said captured link description data contains a disposition of an item of content and a condition for capturing said item of content.

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17. The program product according to claim 14, wherein said captured link description data contains a disposition of

an item of content and contains as said condition a geometric metric range between said item of content and the current viewpoint for capturing said item of content.

5 18. The program product according to claim 14, wherein said captured link description data contains dispositions of a plurality of items of content and contains as said condition a priority order of capturing said plurality of sets of content data.

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19. The program product according to claim 14, wherein said captured link description data contains as said condition a reference position for preferentially capturing a closer item of content.

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20. The program product according to claim 14, wherein the step of capturing content data comprises determining a necessary resolution in accordance with the geometric relationship between the current viewpoint and the item of content and captures said content data at said resolution.

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21. The program product according to claim 14, wherein the step of determining comprises determining priorities for capturing a plurality of sets of content data in accordance with said condition.

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22. The program product according to claim 14, wherein, the step of generating an image comprises generating an image of said item of content, when the geometric relationship between the current viewpoint and said item of content satisfies said condition.

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23. The program product according to claim 14, wherein, the step of generating an image comprises generating an image of a last captured item of content among a plurality of items of content, when said group of items of content has a priority order.

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24. A method for displaying a plurality of linked items of content in a virtual space in accordance with field-of-view data, said method comprising the steps of:

5 capturing link description data;

capturing content data associated with the description of an item of content contained in said captured link description data;

10 generating an image of said item of content to be disposed in said virtual space, in accordance with said captured content data; and

determining further data to be captured next in accordance with a condition contained in said captured link description data.